

**DPW Commission Meeting
Wednesday, December 2, 2015
7:00 p.m. – Police Station Community Room**

DPW Commission meeting was held at 7pm on Wednesday, 12/2/15 with three commissioners, T. Olson, Asst. DPW Director; J. Parisi/DPW Director was not in attendance.

7:00 PM Approval Items:

Board of Commissioners Minutes Approval, 11/18 and 10/21/15: Commissioner Reed moved to accept the minutes of October 21, 2015 and November 18, 2015, seconded by Commissioner Gardner, Vote: 3-0.

Approval of Sale of Cemetery Lots

7:05 PM Open Session:

Open for Public Discussion with the Commissioners: T. Arsenian, spoke about the five year ranking of projects that was completed several years ago. He said the priorities were the DPW facility design and construction estimated at \$7M and NPDES projects with no sum given. He said Millbrook Meadow was not even on the list. He said if it is going to be adopted, shouldn't it be on the list. He asked if the capital projects be reviewed. He said Community Preservation Funds should have objective standards to rate the various projects.

Jim Ugoni, 33 Main Street, said he lives next to Shalin Liu. He said the winter parking ban has been discussed recently, he has been in Rockport for 16 years but recently year round. He said at a recent Board of Selectmen meeting, a group of people were presenting on the subject; it wasn't an organized body of information. The good job of the DPW affects him greatly. He has spoken to DPW staff in other communities to see what is working and what isn't; he's been trying to determine historic snow fall rates in Rockport. He said Manchester eliminated the parking ban completely, in Marblehead a telephone call is made by the Selectmen when the ban will begin. Chairman Sena said we can't predict the winter; we have issues with smaller streets, that's why the parking ban is a town-wide ban. Chairman Sena said we can work on looking at the dates of the ban. Commissioner Reed said if J. Ugoni was looking for snow fall rates during a particular time, he should also try to obtain ice statistics for Rockport as well.

Phil Crotty, CPC said he was present at the request of the CPC Committee.

7:10 PM New Business:

Millbrook Meadow & Mill Pond Improvements Project Discussion: Millbrook Meadow Committee members said they were not aware of a recent vote at a DPW Commission meeting where the commissioners voted to support the Millbrook Meadow and Pond improvements as long as dredging was the first phase and as long as funds are available. Barbara Sparks and Laura Hallowell from the Millbrook Meadow Committee were present and said they will be meeting with the CPC on 12/8/15.

Selectmen Chairperson Battistelli said she would support Phase I dredging. She said she would go back to the full Board of Selectmen and ask that they support that as well. It would be voted on in time for the Millbrook Meadow Committee to amend their application to the CPC. T. Olson distributed a sheet detailing the costs for Phase I dredging.

Eric Hutchins said he attended MEPA site visit. He said there were no bombshells; the comments are due on 12/23 the comments.

T. Arsenian, 95 Granite Street, said at the last meeting \$300,000 was the figure mentioned for dredging, now it appears to be more like \$800,000. E. Hutchins said the actual dredging is still around \$300,000 but the other items involved with the dredging bring the cost up.

Phil Crotty said the CPC cannot support a \$600,000 project. They can support perhaps up to six projects each year at \$100,000; supporting this project would wipeout their funding.

R. George said this would have to be bonded because the CPC doesn't have this kind of funding.

Chairman Sena said he is behind this if the funds are received elsewhere.

Commissioner Gardner said the pond is filling in so quickly, so he also supports dredging as Phase I. He said the meadow will still be there to work on; we need to save the pond.

P. Crotty said this project probably isn't going to get funding.

R. George asked if we can just do the dredging and removal of the controlled materials in Millpond and Frog Pond for year #1.

E. Hutchins said some components will be required if you dredge up cattails, plantings, etc. He said he doesn't think we could get a permit for just dredging, but we'll know by 12/23, the report will include final comments and public comments.

T. Olson said we can ask the design group how much, of what they quoted, would be necessary if we did the minimum, so we would know the costs.

Commissioner Reed said for Phase I we're discussing just saving the pond.

Selectboard Chairperson Battistelli said now that we have the cost estimates attached to the specific steps, it would be great to find a way to identify the actual dredging and the items that are absolutely critical to the dredging.

It was stated that approximately \$163,000 is left in the Millbrook Meadow fund. This is a worthwhile project; we have to be fair with the public. The costs started at under \$1M, then it was \$1.3M. There are still no firm numbers to take to the taxpayers for their support.

Commissioner Gardner asked E. Hutchins, given everything else that people would like to do with the meadow, if we should we let the pond fill in.

E. Hitchins said if you did nothing, it would still be a park. It can be enhanced, ecologically there's nothing wrong with the pond. He said ponds aren't good for the environment. He said he believes the funds for the dam were ridiculous.

Commissioner Gardner questioned if the pond should be abandoned.

D. Greel said we need to dredge the pond now before anything is done to the meadow.

8:00 PM Ongoing Business:

FY16 Goals & Objectives Review: A draft was distributed for the Commissioners to review before the next meeting.

FY17 Budget Cost Savings Ideas: Chairman Sena said the DPW is the first department to be called for special projects. There is no extra funding coming in for these projects. Now, we're looking to reduce costs. He said J. Parisi has looked at ways to reduce costs but there will be a reduction in services. Some examples are shutting off every other street light, shutting down the public restrooms (reducing the hours they are available), stopping the plowing of private roads. Commissioner Reed said we could reduce services in the cemeteries, parks, and roads. This is all about services, maybe eliminate Sunday transfer station hours.

Commissioner Gardner said he doesn't know what the objective is, he questions what FY '17 will look like. Should we be making cuts to manpower or hours and services that are available.

Selectmen Chairperson Battistelli said the Town Administrator asked that everyone look at their department's line items and see if anything could be reduced or eliminated.

T. Olson said last year was level funded, there's not a lot to cut. He asked what if we can't find any savings.

Commissioner Gardner said if we look at other communities, maybe we can adjust our services that way. He said we could also delay things rather than eliminating them.

Bill Wagner said the process is not driven by the Finance Committee. He said the budget process is driven by the Town Administrator and the Board of Selectmen. He said the Finance Committee's goal was to forecast what was going to happen; we were looking at approximately a \$600,000 deficit.

P. Crotty said the CPC can also support recreation, equipment for beaches or parks maybe could be funded. If the DPW needs a truck or something, they could consider funding that.

D. Greel/DPW said he is in favor of vehicle rotation; it costs more to repair vehicles that should have been replaced so he is not in favor of delaying the purchasing of new vehicles.

Tickler List:

Cell tower lease funds
Green Communities/Energy efficiency
Sewer use regulations
Transfer Station Redesign
DPW Facility
Plowing of Private Roads
Paving Plan
FaceBook Discussion
FY 16 Goals & Objectives

Next Meeting: Wed., 12/16/15 at 7pm in the Community Room at the Police Station

8:30 PM: Commissioner Gardner moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Reed, Vote: 3:0.